

NZ High Commission Perfins

On GB Stamps

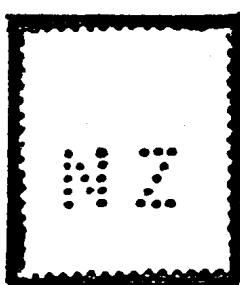
by Tony Edwards

Introduction

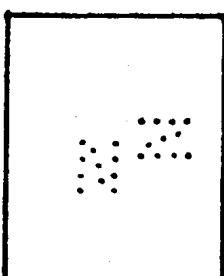
Since I wrote the section on these perfins in "GB Official Perfins", I have had my attention drawn to a number of errors in it and have seen further examples. This article can be considered as a replacement section based on first hand knowledge only.

The Dies

The dies used by the High Commission can be grouped into six types, but types 'D' and 'E' are known with minor variations which could indicate more than one die, or a multi-headed machine. In this article the dies are given letters to identify them rather than numbers to avoid confusion with earlier listings.



A



B

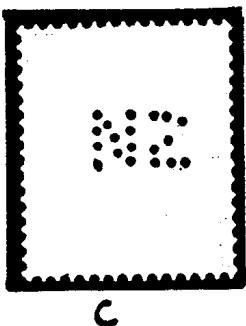
Tillies No. N376.2, van Lint No. 8216
This die is characterised by a 13 hole N
and is taller than the others. It is
known with a wide range of postmarks
from 23/4/1322 to 30/4/1940, and on the
following stamps :-

| | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| KGV | 1912 Royal Cypher 1½d, 2d, 4d |
| | 1924 Block Cypher 6d |
| | 1934 Photogravure 1½d, 2d, 3d, 4d |
| | High Values (re-engraved) 2/6 |
| KEVIH | 1936 ½d, 1d, 1½d |
| KGVI | 1937 Dark ½d, 1d, 6d, 1/- |
| | High Values 2/6(brown) |

Only one, unidentified example of this die has been reported. It is postmarked LONDON EC 25th July 1941 and it has the

NZ High Commission (cont)

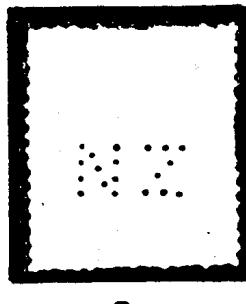
look of a provisional. It can not be definitely identified with the Commission but its postmark and the date suggest it is an emergency provisional made for them by Sloper after the bombing of their works in 1941. It appears to have been produced using two separate strikes of the same 'N' one being sideways.



This die is characterised by a malformed 'Z'. It would appear to be another provisional with a hurriedly produced Z. It is known with postmarks dating from 25/7/1941 to 15/3/1945, and it is known on the following issues :-

KGVI 1937 1/-

1939 2/6(brown), 10/- (dark)



Tillies No.376.1

This die has 4½mm high letters 2mm apart and is known with a number of slightly different letter shapes due to either minor repairs or multiple dies. Its dated postmarks range from 27/5/1943 to 8/11/54 and it is known on the following issues :-

KGVI 1937 3d, 4d, 6d, 1/-

1939 2/6 (brown)

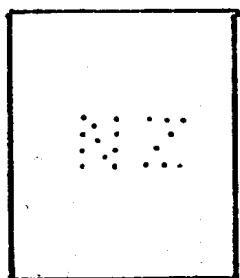
1941 ½, 2½d, 3d

1950 2½d, 4d, 2/6, 5/-, 10/-, £1

QEII Wilding 1d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1/-, 2/6, 5/-

The final die is similar to die D, but has letters 3mm apart. It is known used over the same period as die D and may be a variant of that die or a separate machine. Its postmarks range from 4/3/1940 to 16/9/1964, and so overlap dies B & C. It is known on the following issues

NZ High Commission (cont)



| | | |
|------|---------|----------------------|
| KGVI | 1937 | 2½d |
| | 1939 | 2/6(brown) |
| | 1941 | 1d, 3d |
| | 1950 | 4d |
| QEII | Wilding | ½d, 1d, 3d, 4d, 10/- |

E

Conclusions

From the above analysis of usage a simple story appears. Die A was the original die used at least from 1922 until World War II when it was destroyed in the bombing of Slopers Works. As an emergency measure dies B 1 C were used until the new die D was ready to replace them. Die E does not easily fall into this scheme with its first usage date of 4th March 1940 which was before the bombing. This date was reported in 'Stanley Gibbons Stamp Monthly' of April 1961 but I have not seen any examples with such an early date.

I give my thanks to the many members of the Society who have supplied information and examples to make this article possible, and would be pleased to hear further from anyone who can add anything.